

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 20, 2007

Los Angeles County is home to almost one-third of the registered voters in the State of California. Voters passed State Proposition 41 in March 2002 to provide funds for modernization of voting equipment after the punch card voting system, used for 38 years in Los Angeles County, was decertified. Subsequently in October 2002, the Federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) became law providing additional funding for upgrading voting systems and for voter outreach and pollworker training.

By State law, the allocation of Proposition 41 funds is governed by the Voting Modernization Board (VMB). Both the VMB and previous Secretaries of State determined to allocate these funds via a formula based on numbers of voters in affected jurisdictions.

In August of 2002, this Board adopted a policy to "phase in" stages of new voting equipment to help voters with the transition while Federal and State laws and procedures for Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) and other legally compliant systems were adopted, technology improved, competition among vendors ensued, and other jurisdiction's successes and failures were analyzed.

In accordance with our policy to phase in new equipment, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk met all funding deadlines to purchase and install an InkaVote optical scan voting system which meets all Federal and State equipment requirements.

Now the VMB is considering establishing a deadline for use of State Proposition 41 funding at its meeting March 21. Additionally, Secretary of State (SOS) Debra Bowen has asked our County, by March 30, to justify the need for the remainder of its allocation of HAVA Section 301 funds.

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

Clearly, the passage of these measures was to offer funding to ensure voters the best voting equipment available and further use of such HAVA funds for voter outreach and pollworker training. Los Angeles County was allocated per these formulas \$49.6 million in HAVA 301 funds, and \$49.6 million in State Proposition 41 funds. To date we have expended less than half of these allocations.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Send a five-signature letter to the members of the Voting Modernization Board (VMB), with copies to the Governor and Secretary of State, emphasizing how critical it is for Los Angeles County that the VMB retains its current policy with regard to unexpended VMB funds, highlighting the fact that there is no language in the wording of Proposition 41, which established the VMB and provided for State funding to modernize voting equipment, with regard to a deadline for use of these funds; and
2. Send a five-signature letter to Secretary of State (SOS) Debra Bowen, with a copy to the Governor, emphasizing how vital it is that the allocation formula to counties of Federal HAVA Section 301 funds, established by SOS Kevin Shelley in 2005 and continued by SOS Bruce McPherson, be retained including renewal of the annual contract between the Secretary of State and the County with regard to HAVA Section 301 funds.

#

MDA:le